



# NEWS RELEASE

## OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

**For Immediate Release:**

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### **Elkridge Man Sentenced for Arson and Assault on Grandparents**

A 30-year-old Elkridge man, convicted of threatening his grandparents and setting their home on fire, has been sentenced to 20 years in prison. Aaron Thomas Logerquist, of the 5900 block of Setter Drive, pleaded guilty to first-degree arson and second-degree assault charges last month and was sentenced by Howard County Circuit Court Judge Richard S. Bernhardt this morning.

Police and firefighters were dispatched to the Elkridge home just after 9:30 a.m. on February 10 after Logerquist's 74-year-old grandmother called 911 dispatchers. Deputy State's Attorney Mary V. Murphy told the court that Logerquist lived with his grandparents and had a history of drug abuse. She stated that when his grandparents tried to awaken Logerquist so that he could go to a methadone clinic appointment, he became irate and brandished a pistol and knife and threatened to harm them. The gun turned out to be a pellet gun but Logerquist also grabbed a propane torch and used firework mortars to ignite two fires in the house, including one in his grandparents' bed.

At today's sentencing hearing, Murphy asked for 20 years of active incarceration, citing Logerquist's prior assault on his grandmother, along with prior burglary convictions in his past. "I don't think his grandparents are safe or society is safe when he is out on the street," she stated. Logerquist apologized to the court and his grandparents, who were not present in the courtroom.

Judge Bernhardt admonished Logerquist that "the harm in this case was excessive" and that "the danger posed in this event still exists." He sentenced Logerquist to 30 years in prison, suspending all but 20 years on the arson charge and a concurrent sentence of 10 years on the assault charge. The judge placed Logerquist on five years of supervised probation upon his release and ordered him to have no contact with his grandparents during that period.

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